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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 NEW DELHI 007425

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [ETRD](#) [IN](#) [PK](#) [INDO](#) [PAK](#) [GOI](#)

SUBJECT: GOI DOCUMENT: RECENT INITIATIVES IN INDO-PAK RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 7395

Classified By: PolCouns Geoffrey Pyatt, Reasons 1.4 (B,D).

¶1. (C) During a November 19 meeting reviewing the agenda for the upcoming Indo-Pak composite dialogue (reftel), MEA Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran) Arun K. Singh shared

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with us four papers outlining progress in the Indo-Pak relationship since 2003, pending bilateral proposals, unilateral Indian actions, and areas where India perceives Pakistan to be dragging its feet. Following is the Indian paper on "Matters taken up with Pakistan after bilateral talks on September 4-6, 2004," which Singh offered as a summary of GOI-initiated progress over recent weeks. These steps, many of which have received little publicity, are reflective of the broad expansion of Indo-Pak interaction that has occurred in recent months.

¶2. (SBU) Begin Text GOI paper: "Matters taken up with Pakistan after bilateral talks on September 4-6, 2004"

September 18, 2004

Unilateral visa relaxation measures announced by India. These included:

i. Accredited journalists with minimum 3 years accreditation with national or international media of repute could be issued Multiple Entry Visas, without prior reference to headquarters, and with exemption from reporting to the police.

ii. Academicians and professors, Vice Chancellors and those coming on the invitation of reputed/ eminent universities and institutions could be issued Multiple Entry Visas, without prior reference to headquarters, and with exemption from reporting to the police.

iii. Medical doctors, if accompanying patients for treatment at leading/reputed hospitals in India, could be issued visas without prior reference to headquarters and with exemption from reporting to the police.

iv. All Pakistan nationals above 65 could be granted visas with exemption from reporting to the police.

v. Pakistani nationals could be permitted to visit up to twelve places during each visit (as against the present 3)

vi. There will also be liberalization in issuing visas for participation in conferences.

September 21, 2004

A formal invitation from the Speaker, Lok Sabha, to the Speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly to visit India extended by High Commissioner of India to Islamabad.

September 22, 2004

Following proposal reiterated through notes verbale and response sought. It was communicated that a confirmation through a note verbale would constitute an agreement.

i. The existing Protocol of 1974 be amended to include more shrines in both countries;

ii. The size of the Pilgrim Group could be increased (from 3000 to 5000 on the occasions on Baisakhi and Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev; 1000 to 2000 on the occasion of Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev; 500 to 1000 on the occasion of Barsi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.);

iii. Facilitating a visit of SGPC team to study religious literature lying in National libraries and Universities in Lahore and Islamabad;

iv. Grant of Transit Facilities to each other's goods on reciprocal basis;

v. Two sides could consider opening of Attari-Wagah land route for trade;

vi. Allow multiple airlines for operations of the scheduled

services on a reciprocal basis;

vii. Allowing the designated carriers of Pakistan seeking to have air connectivity with India 7 flights a week to one international airport and then 7 more flights to a second international airport, on a reciprocal basis.

viii. Amendment to the 1975 Protocol on Resumption of Shipping Services between India and Pakistan: Deleting article 3 thereby allowing third country flag ships/vessels to lift India/Pakistan bound cargo; Deleting article 5 thereby allowing flag carriers of both countries to lift cargo for a third country from each other's port;

September 23, 2004

Pakistan side informed of Archeological Survey of India's willingness to extend assistance for repair & maintenance of Jehangir's tomb in Lahore, and requested for a sample of the stone used in the Tomb.

September 28, 2004

Response sought on India's proposal for starting group tours by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC). (DTC has written to PTDC on three occasions. It was also agreed in the Joint Statement on September 8, 2004 that efforts would be made to promote group tourism.)

October 7, 2004

i. As follow up for participation in trade fairs and exhibitions in each other's country, a list of Trade Fairs and related events being organized by ITPO between October 2004 - June 2005 handed over to Pakistan side.

ii. Proposal for a meeting between CBI and FIA to discuss issues related to trans-border crimes, such as financial flows, cyber crime, etc. reiterated to Pakistan and confirmation sought so as to finalise the dates through diplomatic channels.

October 8, 2004

Proposal to hold technical level talks with Pakistan on starting a bus service on specific occasions between Amritsar and religious places in and around Lahore, such as Nankana Sahib, made to Pakistan.

October 11, 2004

i. Formal invitation extended to Pakistan artistes for participation in 11th Triennale-India exhibition (an exhibition of contemporary world art) being organized by Lalit Kala Akademi from January 15-February 10, 2005 in New Delhi.

ii. Formal invitation extended for participation of two to three theatre groups from Pakistan in the 7th Rang Mahotsav (National Theatre Festival) being organized by National School of Drama from January 5 to 20, 2005 at New Delhi.

iii. Formal invitation extended to two painters of eminence to participate in International Painters Camp being organized by Lalit Kala Akademi at Hyderabad from February 20 to March 10, 2005 to celebrate its Golden Jubilee.

October 12, 2004

Formal invitation extended to a 8-member youth delegation from Pakistan to participate in the National Youth festival being organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India from January 12 to 16, 2004.

October 27, 2004

In continuation of the suggestions made by the Indian side during the meeting between the Secretaries (Culture) of the two countries on "Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in Various Fields" within the framework of the Composite Dialogue that was held in New Delhi on August 3-4, 2004, India proposed the following to Pakistan on October 27, 2004:

i. A film festival of Pakistani films to be organized by the Directorate of Film Festivals in New Delhi in April 2005, and a festival of Indian films in Pakistan in February - March 2005 to coincide with the Basant Festival.

ii. A diploma course in Development Journalism for Pakistani journalists to be organized by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, from January - April 2005.

iii. Setting up of a Joint Working Group to tackle the menace of piracy of Indian films and music, that could include the representatives from the respective Ministries of Information

and Broadcasting, film and music industry/associations and other apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
October 28, 2004

Invitation extended to 4 (four) talented students (9 to 12 Standard, in the age group of 13-18) and one teacher from Pakistan to participate in the "Children Science Congress" being organized by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India at Guwahati on December 27-31, 2004.

November 4, 2004

In pursuance of India's suggestion for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of education that was made during Secretary (Culture) level talks in August 2004, Pakistan side

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was conveyed that University Grant Commission (UGC) of India was willing to receive a delegation from the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan for mutual interaction and identifying areas of collaboration in Higher Education in the 3rd or 4th week of January 2005. Pakistani side was requested to confirm the dates and the composition of the delegation of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan at the earliest.

November 8, 2004

Technical details for establishing hotline between the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries given to the Pakistan side. End Text.

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